GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1570
ANSWERED ON:10.12.2008
MATERNAL MORTALITY IN TRIBAL AREAS
Oram Shri Jual

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether cases of maternal death are on the rise in the tribal areas of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the efforts made by the Government to prevent these maternal deaths?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE(SMT. PANABAKA LAKSHMI)

(a) to (c): The latest survey report titled "Maternal Mortality in India: 1997-2003 trends, causes and risk factors" published in the year 2006 by the Registrar General of India−Sample Registration System, does not provide data on maternal deaths specific to tribal areas.The National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) (2005-2012),and under its umbrella, the Reproductive and Child Health Programme Phase II,launched by the Government of India in the year 2005, aims to improve access to equitable,affordable,accountable and effective primary health care, in the rural and tribal areas of the country, especially for poor women and children, with a special focus on 18 States which have weak public health indicators and weak infrastructure. Under the Mission, the following key strategies and interventions are being implemented to accelerate the pace of reduction in maternal mortality, namely Janani Suraksha Yojana (JSY), a cash benefit scheme to promote Institutional Delivery with a special focus on Below Poverty Line (BPL) and SC/ST pregnant women;Operationalizing Community Health Centers as First Referral Units (FRUs) and Primary Health Centers for 24X7 services; Augmenting the availability of skilled manpower by means of different skill- based trainings such as Skilled Birth Attendance; training of MBBS Doctors in Life Saving Anesthetic Skills and Emergency Obstetric Care including Caesarian Section;Provision of Ante-natal and Post Natal Care services; prevention and treatment of Anemia by supplementation with Iron and Folic Acid tablets during pregnancy and lactation;Organizing Village Health & Nutrition Day at Anganwadi Centers; Appointment of an Accredited Social Health Activist (ASHA) to facilitate accessing of health care services by the community including pregnant women;Strengthening of Health Facilities, that is, District Hospitals,Community Health Centres (CHCs) Primary Health Centres (PHCs) and Sub Centres (SCs), by providing them with funds including untied grants, Annual Maintenance Grants (AMG) and Corpus Funds to improve service delivery.